

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /039 W

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R 051337 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7879

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1112

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CVIS, XA, SF (STANLEY MEISLER)

SUBJECT: VISA PROBLEMS OF LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. NO RPT NO RECORD CURRENT EMBASSY FILES OF MEISLER VISA PROBLEM. MEISLER, HOWEVER, ONE OF ABOUT FIVE US CORRESPONDENTS AT NAIROBI LUNCHEON WITH ECON OFFICER BAKER EN ROUTE PRETORIA WHO COMPLAINED THAT SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTED FOR CORRESPONDENT ONE VISA, ONE SET OF STORIES, THEN NO MORE VISAS. MEISLER SAID HIS REPORTS DATING TO LATE 1967 AND EARLY 1968 WERE INITIALLY CALLED TO ATTENTION SAG AS GOOD EXAMPLE OF OBJECTIVE FOREIGN REPORTING BUT ONE OF KEY MINISTERS ( UNIDENTIFIED) WAS UPSET BY THEM AND MEISLER UNABLE GET VISA SINCE.

2. TERTIUS MYBURGH ( PRETORIA NEWS) IS PERSONAL FRIEND OF MEISLER. MYBURGH MENTIONED TO BAKER RECENTLY THAT HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET A VISA FOR MEISLER " FOR LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS", AND HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO. HE DISCUSSED CASE WITH SECRETARY INFORMATION RHODIE WHO CHECKED DEPARTMENT INFORMATION FILES AND SAID THERE NOTHING ON MEISLER ( I. E., THAT DEPARTMENT INFORMATION NOT BLOCKING A VISA). MYBURGH SAID HE PLANS RAISE ISSUE WITH PRIME MINISTER AND WITH MINISTER MULDER WHEN HE VISITS CAPE TOWN, PROBABLY NEXT MONTH. MYBURGH ALSO PROVIDED COPIES OF MEISLER 1967-68 ARTICLES FROM LA TIMES.

3. UNDERSTAND LA TIMES POLICY IS TO DEVELOP REGIONAL  
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SPECIALISTS WHO SERVE IN AREA FOR LONG TOURS RATHER THAN USE GENERALIST FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ON SHORT TOURS. MEISLER IS THEIR " AFRICAN MAN" BASED APPARENTLY NOT ONLY ON AN ACADEMIC BACKGROUND BUT ALSO HIS PREVIOUS SERVICE IN AFRICA WITH PEACE CORPS ( POSSIBLY BUT PROBABLY NOT A FACTOR IN HIS CASE).

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS AVAILABLE INFORMATION WITHOUT APPROACHING SAG OFFICIALS. HAVE NOT ( RPT NOT) APPROACHED THEM AS YET ON POSSIBILITY AF MAY WISH TAKE UP MATTER THROUGH AMBASSADOR BOTHA, GIVEN HIS ACTIVE INTEREST IN VISA PROBLEMS. ( PROBE LIMITED SEEKING INFORMATION LIKELY ONLY CONFIRM MYBURGH' S UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS PROBLEM OR PRODUCE DEPARTMENT INTERIOR REPLY IT NOT PREPARED TAKE POSITION IN ABSENCE APPLICATION.) IF DEPARTMENT PREFERS APPROACH ON MEISLER' S BEHALF BE MADE HERE, PROPOSE INITIATE WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY VAN DALSEN IN PRETORIA. EVEN IF HE UNABLE DO ANYTHING THIS WOULD PROBABLY FLUSH OUT ISSUES, LEAVING QUESTION MINISTERIAL APPROACHES IN CAPE TOWN FOR DECISION IN LIGHT DEVELOPMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE.  
HURD

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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